



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ to hold citizen meeting on improving Crab Creek water quality

ROANOKE – The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will host a public meeting on Nov. 12 from 7-9 p.m. in Christiansburg to discuss the development of a water quality improvement plan for reducing fecal bacteria contamination and excessive sediment accumulation in Crab Creek in Montgomery County. The purposes of the meeting are to review the status of water quality in Crab Creek, provide an overview of the plan development process, and begin discussions about actions needed to reduce agricultural, residential, and urban sources of fecal bacteria and sediment.

The public meeting will be held at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St.

Fecal bacteria levels (e.g. *E. coli*) in Crab Creek exceed state water quality standards designed to protect primary contact recreation (such as swimming, wading, kayaking, etc.). Additionally, Crab Creek does not meet Virginia's general standard for water quality due to an excessive accumulation of sand, silt, and clay on the streambed that is harmful to aquatic life. Due to these water quality impairments, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for *E. coli* and sediment have been developed by DEQ. A TMDL describes the amount of pollution that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. The *E. coli* and sediment TMDL study for Crab Creek was completed in 2004. The *Fecal Bacteria and General Standard TMDL Development for Crab Creek* document can be located on DEQ's website at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/newrvr/crabcr.pdf>.

Questions or information requests should be addressed to Patrick Lizon, TMDL/Watershed Field Coordinator, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, 355-A Deadmore St., Abingdon, VA 24210, email: Patrick.Lizon@deq.virginia.gov, phone (276) 676-4803.

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